LIFE IN NATURE ON LAKE MICHIGAN

New Buffalo Times

NEWS $1

THE OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF NEW BUFFALO, MICHIGAN • SINCE 1942

CHICAGO • LONG BEACH • MICHIANA SHORES • GRAND BEACH • NEW BUFFALO • UNION PIER • THREE OAKS • LAKESIDE • HARBERT • SAWYER

issue 51, volume 84 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, December 25, 2025

New Buffalo Area Recreational Authority approves softball field bid; Approves extending grant program **PAGE 3**

Village council hears update on beach nourishment **PAGE 5**

Chamber to cut ribbon at Between Friends Collective **PAGE 6**

Snow Ball raises funds for Neighbor By Neighbor **PAGE 8**

Semi-truck driver dies after multiple-vehicle crash on I-94 **PAGE 18**

JINGLE BELL ROCK...

STUDENTS GRACE THE STAGE FOR CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW

— PAGE 10 —

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Harbor Country Insurance Agency

Gregory A. Bubb, CIC
269-469-4438
212 S Whittaker St.
New Buffalo, MI

www.HARBORCOUNTRYINSURANCE.com

Calvary Chapel New Buffalo

CALVARYCHAPELNB.ORG

We are a non-denominational church teaching through the bible line by line
Sunday service 1015 ET
Thursday bible study 7pm ET
Saturday men's bible study 915 ET in person and zoom
Saturday women's bible study 1030 ET on zoom
1615 E Buffalo St. New Buffalo, Mi

30 N Whittaker St
Deli by day

David's delicatessen & coffee
NEW BUFFALO • MICHIGAN

Open 6 days
davidsdeliandcoffee.com

NOW SERVING FULL BAR!!!
GET A MARGARITA!
BOOK OUR BANQUET HALL FOR ANY EVENT!

AL FUEGO GRILL & BAR
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

BREAKFAST
LUNCH • DINNER

OPEN DAILY • 7AM-10PM
18529 Harbor Country Drive
NEW BUFFALO
FIND US ON GOOGLE

Bloomery
BLOOMERYCANNABIS.COM
11429 O'Brien Ct, New Buffalo, MI 49117

EXIT 1's Best Recreational Selection

BEST PRICES · HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS · PREMIER LOYALTY PROGRAM · + SO MUCH MORE

LOYALTY LEVEL-UP REWARDS
WE PRICE MATCH
CURBSIDE PICKUP

FREE INFUSED PRE ROLL with $30 purchase
FREE GRAM OF WAX with $50 purchase
FREE MITTEN+ 1G DISPOSABLE with $60 purchase
FREE 3.5 GRAMS FLOWER with $75 purchase
FREE 7 GRAMS FLOWER with $99 purchase
FREE MITTEN PREROLL MULTIPACK with $125 purchase
30% OFF with $150 purchase
FREE BLUE TIER OUNCE with $200 purchase

EXPIRES 8/20/24
Coupons can not be combined or stacked. Rules and restrictions apply. Limit 1 offer per customer. Valid at Bloomery New Buffalo

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

ETHICS
SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM
MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION MEMBER

PROPRIETOR
NEW BUFFALO TIMES, INC.

EDITOR
NEW BUFFALO TIMES INTELLIGENCE
EDITORIAL BOARD

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
JOE DURK

REPORTERS/WRITERS
THERESE DONNELLY
FRANCESCA SAGALA
LAWRENCE VON EBELER
KURT MARGGRAF
JACK OLESKER
KAREN EDWARDS
ALEXANDER FATOUROS
SOPHIA R. FATOUROS
STAN MADDUX
KRISTIN E. FATOUROS
NEW BUFFALO TIMES INTELLIGENCE
NEW BUFFALO TIMES POLITICS
GUESTS

QUOTES
DINO N. FATOUROS

PROOFING
FRANCESCA SAGALA

BROADCAST/ADVERTISING
JANINE ADAMSKI 630-370-0820
OR JANINEADAMSKI@GMAIL.COM

SUGGESTIONS, CRITICISM, IDEAS
MEDIA@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

ADVERTISING
MEDIA@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

CLASSIFIED ADS
CLASSIFIEDS@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

SUBSCRIPTIONS
SUBSCRIPTIONS@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH NEW BUFFALO TIMES
INFO@NEWBUFFALOTIMES.COM

Periodical Postage paid in New Buffalo, MI. Postmaster, please send address changes to:
NEW BUFFALO TIMES
PO BOX 369, New Buffalo, MI 49117

©2025 NEW BUFFALO TIMES, INC.
PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

NEW BUFFALO TIMES distribution:
Milda's Corner Market • Sawyer Garden Center • The Whistle Stop
David's Delicatessen • Barney's
Knoll Bros. • Stray Dog
Infusco Coffee Roasters
Black Currant Bakehouse • Redamak's
Between Casey's and Nancy's
Froehlics - Three Oaks • The Lakeside Inn
Michigan City, IN • Chicago, IL
Kalamazoo, MI • Grand Rapids, MI
Three Oaks, MI • Union Pier, MI
Sawyer, MI • St. Joseph, MI

For the most convenient location, you can subscribe to get the *NEW BUFFALO TIMES* in your mailbox or inbox. Please email us for E-TIMES, info@newbuffalotimes.com.

New Buffalo Area Recreational Authority approves softball field bid

APPROVES EXTENDING GRANT PROGRAM

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Members of the New Buffalo Area Recreational Authority approved a bid from Long Boys for the softball field project, contingent upon approval of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) if necessary, at a special Tuesday, Dec. 23, meeting.

They also approved a resolution extending the Michigan Recreation Passport grant program to Sept. 30.

Adam Bowen, chair of NBARA, said the project has been "pushed behind," as it was supposed to be completed in March. However, he said he doesn't anticipate Long Boys getting started until the spring due to the weather.

NBARA secured an approximately $270,000 Michigan Department of Natural Resources Passport Grant for the field's upgrades. To cover the match required for the grant, the city received a Discretionary grant from the Pokagon Fund.

Bowen said that they were able to obtain a recalculation of a bid from Long Boys, as the original quote was off about $50,000. Including the updated bid of $247,000 with Abonmarche's fees of 47,500 would be above the grant cost.

Bowne said it was recommended by Abonmarche that they remove one light pole from the project which, plus the additional Abonmarche fees, would bring the cost to a total of $277,375, which is about $7,000 over budget with the grant. Removing two would be $259,990, which Bowen said would give them about $10,000 "to play with."

Board members were unsure if removing one or two light poles would affect the design and approval would be needed from the Michigan Passport Grant Program. Bowen said he'd reach out to Abonmarche regarding the change.

New Buffalo City Manager Darwin Watson said that it wouldn't be adding to the cost and wouldn't be "significantly changing the design."

New Buffalo City has leased the softball fields, fields #3 and #4, to NBARA, while New Buffalo Area Schools has leased the district-owned baseball field to NBARA.

Bowen said the grant will make several improvements to the softball field possible.

"They're going to extend the dugouts, they're going to make the dugouts ADA compliant, they're going to put in new pathways, walkways, there're going to be trash receptacles, also there'll be a flagpole and then the bleachers that will be ADA accessible as well," he said.

The New Buffalo Community Education Foundation, which was formed this spring, secured the funding through donations that made the artificial turf at the field possible.

Board members approved the 2026 meeting schedule. NBARA meetings will be at 9 a.m. on the second Wednesday of every other month except November, when it'll be Nov. 18 due to Veteran's Day.

Power is more powerful than money usually.
— Dino N. Fatouros

Memory Cafés launching in 2026

Memory Cafés will be held in New Buffalo, Niles and Stevensville starting in January thanks to a grant from the Berrien Community Foundation.

Area Agency on Aging and the Campus for Creative Aging are launching an exciting new initiative in the new year for people with cognitive changes, such as dementia, and their families.

Memory Cafés are a place for those with dementia and their caregivers to engage in art, enjoy games and puzzles, and learn about interesting topics in a safe and welcoming environment.

"The Cafés will be set up just like any other cafe with coffee, tea, and snacks to make all feel welcome," Jess Kolbe, coordinator for Campus for Creative Aging, said. "Research demonstrates that participants experience joy, purpose, and belonging within these Cafés supporting our ongoing initiative to create a Dementia-Friendly Community in Southwest Michigan."

The Cafés are scheduled for:

9:30-11:30 a.m., the first Tuesday of the month at the New Buffalo Township Library,33 N. Thompson St., New Buffalo

9:30-11:30 a.m., the second Thursday of the month at the Niles District Library, 620 E. Main St., Niles

1:00-3:00 p.m., the third Monday of the month (second Monday in January and February due to holidays), at the Lincoln Township Public Library, 2099 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville

Memory Cafés are led by volunteer facilitators and are not for respite care. Caregivers, family members or friends join the person with dementia to, together, experience a haven for nonjudgemental fun.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer facilitator, please reach out to Jess at JessKolbe@areaagencyonaging.org or 269-932-7865.

All Memory Cafés are free and open to the public. Registration is requested in case of inclement weather or illness.

For more information, to express interest as a volunteer, and/or to sign up for a Memory Cafe, visit www.areaagencyonaging.org/memory-cafes.

— STAFF REPORTS

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 9AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
The Board meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 6PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Lake Michigan College Board of Trustees names Dr. Ken Flowers as next president

The Lake Michigan College Board of Trustees has named Dr. Ken Flowers as the College's next president.

Dr. Flowers has more than 28 years of experience in higher education, academic administration, and workforce-aligned education.

"Dr. Flowers' leadership reflects the very best of Lake Michigan College," said Joan Smith, chair of the Lake Michigan College Board of Trustees. "His deep understanding of our students, our community, and the role community colleges play in regional economic vitality make him exceptionally well-suited to lead LMC into its next chapter."

Dr. Flowers currently serves as Executive Vice President at Lake Michigan College, providing strategic leadership for Academic and Student Affairs. Previously, Dr. Flowers served as Provost and Vice President of Academics, where he was the College's chief academic officer, leading all academic divisions including Career and Workforce Education, Health Sciences, and Arts and Sciences.

Over his career, Dr. Flowers has held numerous leadership roles at Lake Michigan College, including Dean of Career and Workforce Education, Director of Workforce Training and Development, Apprenticeship Coordinator, Department Chair, and Machining and Manufacturing Instructor. He began his professional journey in manufacturing, spending 14 years in the mold-making industry before transitioning to education.

Dr. Flowers holds an associate degree and Journeyman Moldmaker certificate from Lake Michigan College, a Bachelor of Applied Science from Siena Heights University, a master's degree in Career and Technical Education from Ferris State University, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University. His doctoral research focused on partnerships between community colleges and highly regulated industries to support workforce development.

In recognition of his leadership, Dr. Flowers was selected as a 2025–26 Aspen Rising Presidents Fellow by the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, one of only 40 leaders chosen nationwide. He has also been named Postsecondary Professional of the Year by both the Michigan Association of Career and Technical Education and the Association for Career and Technical Education Region I and received the Patriot Award from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for his support of employees serving in the military.

"I am deeply honored to be selected as the next president of Lake Michigan College," said Dr. Flowers. "As an alumnus, faculty member, and administrator, this institution has shaped my life and career. I look forward to working with the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, students, and community partners to build on LMC's strong foundation and continue expanding opportunities for student success and regional impact."

Dr. Flowers resides in St. Joseph, Michigan, with his wife, Misty. They have two children, Austin and Lindsey, and two granddaughters, Ryatt and Blair.

LMC is the region's leader in high quality, affordable higher education, offering associate degrees, certificates, and transfer programs in more than 80 fields of study. LMC offers national-title-winning intercollegiate athletic teams, on-campus housing, and a wealth of extracurricular activities, clubs, and organizations to create an authentic college experience close to home.

For more information, visit www.lakemichigancollege.edu.

— STAFF REPORTS

A leader's legacy is not measured by how long they are in power, but by the impact they make on people's lives.
— Richard M. Daley

Village council hears update on beach nourishment

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Beach nourishment will be one major project for the Village of Grand Beach in 2026.

At the village council's Wednesday, Dec. 17, meeting, Bob Aaker, chair of the Beach Resiliency Committee, said that the Edgewater Resources contract for the Beach Nourishment Study is "fully executed" and that they're getting ready to have a kick-off meeting after Jan. 1 to "get in alignment with their scope and schedules."

Regarding seeking funding for future long-term projects, he said the committee is involved in Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative, an initiative by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities, which will help in "framing our project" and getting resident engagement.

In 2026, Aaker said they'll try to increase publicity by putting in information on the village's website and holding a town hall meeting or two, with the possibility of them being on Zoom.

Council members approved a resolution approving the village's submission of Michigan Coastal Management Program Grant Application for Beach & Dune Restoration and Resiliency Project-Phase II.

At their Dec. 15 meeting, the New Buffalo Township Board approved a resolution supporting the village's application to the Michigan Coastal Management Program for grants in 2027.

"So, we're kind of chasing these grants and getting ourselves set up for our long-term sand retention solutions," he said, adding that it's a "long process."

Any funding from grants would be available in 2027, he said.

Committee member Ed Trainor has been appointed to the Great Lakes Coalition Board, which will help them have "stronger, quicker communication" with state and federal partners and helping look for more funding opportunities. The village is also a member of the Great Lakes Coalition, although Aaker said he's recommending that individual village residents become members.

Regarding seeking funding for future long-term projects, he said the committee is involved in Resilient Coastal Projects Initiative, an initiative by the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities, which will help in "framing our project" and getting resident engagement.

Council members heard an audit presentation by Jamie Wilkey from Lauterbach & Amen.

Council president Harry Walder said that the village had an eight-month fiscal year last year that ended June 30, 2025, instead of Oct. 31, adding that next year would return to a normal, 12-month cycle.

Wilkey said that some items in the audit could be attributed to the shorter year.

"The way the property tax calendar works versus fiscal year end there was not much revenue recognized from a property tax perspective because that revenue was either recognized last year or will be recognized in the new 12-month cycle," she said.

The village's overall net position or equity decreased for the year, which Wilkey said was "directly related to that revenue recognition for property taxes."

The village's MERS pension plan was just over 100 percent funded at the fiscal year-end.

The village retired the formal debt structure or debt payments during the years and that long-term debt came down 23 percent for the year.

Wilkey said that there's one recommendation that they included in this year's audit regarding IT security awareness and cyber security issues, as they've been made aware by local governments that they can be targets of those types of attacks. Wilkey added that the village is already taking some action regarding potential issues.

Council members authorized Walder golf course and pro shop commissioner Jack Grace to negotiate on behalf of the village, as well as to answer any questions, with Theilen Turf Irrigation regarding their Golf Course Irrigation Contract.

Walder said he and Grace met with all the bidders and they felt that owner Doug Theilen had "the best grasp on what we're trying to do here - we thought that he understood the process, he understood how to get from point A to point B."

He added that the reason they wanted to get everything moving now was that Theilen was scheduled to do the work in the spring of 2027 and would need to do work ahead of the project's start date.

Council members approved Ordinance 2025-117, "An Ordinance to Amend Short Term Rental Ordinance 2025-115, to add language that states the following: "Rental Properties shall eliminate/prohibit the use of Homeowner's Outdoor Speakers by renters." Additionally, add the following wording: "rental unit owners are encouraged to install Sound Monitoring equipment. If a rental unit it in violation of the Village's Noise Ordinance and ticketed, that unit will then be required to install a Sound Monitoring device."

Council members approved the Deputy Clerk salary to reflect her promotion to Village Treasurer as presented and to be funded from various accounts as budgeted.

Council members approved the renewal of the MPSCS/Grand Beach Water Tank Co-Location Agreement which expires Dec. 31, 2025, and extends through Dec. 31, 2035.

HSA Contributions for 2026, which total $40,150 and will be funded from various accounts as budgeted, were approved.

The annual Identity Theft Prevention Program Report 2025 was approved.

Council members approved allowing the Police Station Committee to make non-financial decisions during the design process. Walder said that at the last committee meeting, it was asked if every design decision needs to go back to the council for approval. He added that the Village of Michiana will be asking for approval from their council of the same motion.

Walder asked council members to look at the village's fines and fees that come from their various ordinances and see if they need to be updated, adding that he'd like to review them annually.

The Planning Commission Annual Report for 2025 was approved.

Police chief Ryan Layman said that he has two officers, who successfully passed background checks, are ready to start the police academy and will be ready to graduate in May. One will start the academy in January, and the other one will be riding around with officers before starting the academy in March.

Hikers to explore Robinson Woods and Flynn Woods Preserves

The annual First Day Hike will take place at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 1.

First Day Hikes are part of a nationwide initiative to encourage people to get outdoors. Kids and adults across the country will be participating in First Day Hikes, getting their hearts pumping and enjoying the beauty of the great outdoors.

The hike will be led by Harbor Country Hikers President Pat Fisher (AKA "Old Man Time"). Hikers will be hiking a "twofer," again this year starting at Robinson Woods Preserve and finishing at Flynn Woods Preserve.

Robinson Woods Preserve consists of a mature forest dominated by beech, maple, tulip poplar and oak. Seasonal streams transit the property, eventually draining into bubbling Cherry Creek whose steep and scenic ravine sits at the northern edge of the property. Flynn Woods Preserve is a forested wetland complex located on the south side of East Road across from Robinson Woods Preserve. This property features a mix of oak-hickory and wetland forests, and together with Robinson Woods, creates a 115-acre protected area.

HCH has an All-Terrain Rollator which may be reserved for use on our hikes. Reservations are made on a first-come first-served basis by filling out the brief form at https://harborcountryhikers.org/rollator.

Although membership is preferred, all are welcome to attend this hike. Dress for the weather, wear a sun hat and sturdy shoes or boots, preferred pest controls and bring plenty of water. For more information, including driving directions, visit the Hikers' website, www.harborcountryhikers.org, or its Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

Chamber to cut ribbon at Between Friends Collective

A ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the Grand Opening of Between Friends Collective, a new boutique located at 9486 Red Arrow Highway in Bridgman, will take place at noon Monday, Jan. 5, and is open to the public.

Administered by the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce, the ribbon cutting ceremony is part of the boutique's Grand Opening celebration, which will continue throughout the afternoon. Refreshments and drinks will be served, and attendees are encouraged to stay, explore the shop, and celebrate this exciting new addition to the Harbor Country business community.

The ribbon cutting marks the official opening of Between Friends Collective, a thoughtfully curated boutique where creativity, style, and community come together with ease. Designed as a shared space for makers, artisans, and small brands, the collective offers an ever-changing mix of handcrafted goods, meaningful gifts, and a women's consignment closet filled with pieces ready for their next chapter. Every detail of Between Friends Collective is rooted in connection. Guests are invited to slow down, browse with intention, and discover something unexpected—whether it's a locally made treasure, a new favorite artist, or a piece that simply feels right. Shopping here is personal, relaxed, and welcoming, just as it should be.

Open to all, It's Between Friends also offers a Best Friends Forever (BFF) Membership, rewarding loyal shoppers with exclusive savings, private events, and quarterly sales. More than a boutique, it is a place where friendships form, creativity is celebrated, and community is always at the center.

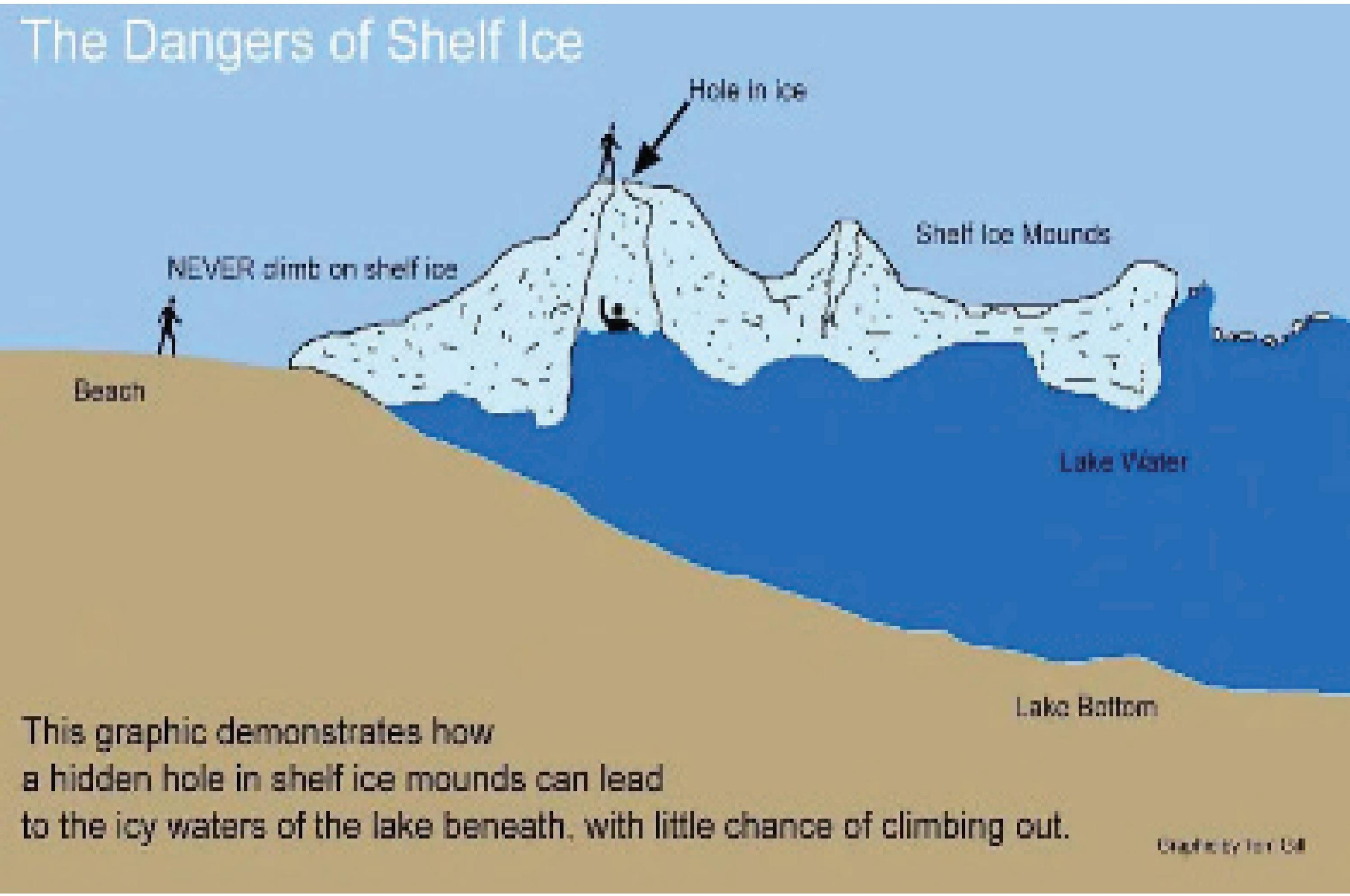
Between Friends Collective is excited to invite the Harbor Country community and look forward to welcoming neighbors and visitors alike into their boutique.

For more information about Between Friends Collective, please visit their Between Friends Facebook page. — STAFF REPORTS

Passaro, Kahne, Taylor, DeFrancesco, & Thompson
LAW OFFICES *your local common-sense legal team*
685 West Main Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | (269) 983-0325 | passarokahne.com
17656A US Highway 12, New Buffalo, MI 49117 | (269) 469-5297 | Fax: (269) 983-0328

- *Business/Tax Law*
- *Estate Planning*
- *Medicaid & Long-Term Care Planning*
- *Real Estate*
- *Special Needs Planning*
- *Probate and Trust Administration*

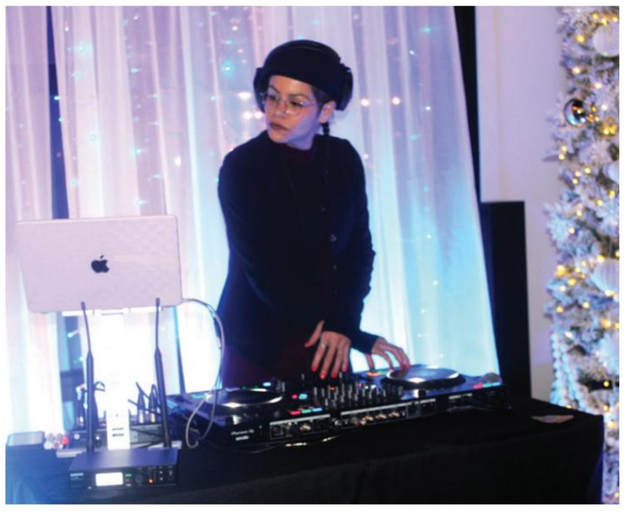
AT YOUR SERVICE
A COMPANY OF CRAFTSMEN
WWW.ATYOURSERVICE.BUILDERS
T.269.358.8159
CUSTOM: **HOMES | RENOVATION | COMMERCIAL**



This graphic demonstrates how
a hidden hole in shelf ice mounds can lead
to the icy waters of the lake beneath, with little chance of climbing out.

Paula Herrera and Scott Ferguson are decked out in festive attire

DJ Tess spins some tunes



Guests dance to festive tunes

Snow Ball raises funds for Neighbor By Neighbor

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Guests enjoyed a pre-Christmas celebration, while also helping their fellow neighbors, at the first Naughty and Nice Snow Ball: A Festive Benefit for Neighbor By Neighbor at Commune-Market in Three Oaks Saturday, Dec. 20.

Guests got decked out in their sparkling, holiday best to enjoy a night of festive cocktails, delicious seasonal bites, and dancing with music by a frosty live DJ, Chicago's DJ Tess.

Bob Murphy, Neighbor By Neighbor's executive director, thanked owners Tom Knibbs and Jim Dygas and Jan Smith from @Properties for hosting it.

Sponsors were Commune-Market, Smith, Christie's International Real Estate, Tom Cat Tavern, Alan Ray's The Coffee Place and Viola Cafe and Greenbriar Bakery.

Murphy said Neighbor By Neighbor serves people in need in Harbor Country in four core ways: housing, or helping people to stay in their homes and working with them "in a speedy manner" when they're facing an eviction notice; utilities, such as when someone's electric bill is past due; food and hygiene, with Murphy saying that their already large pantry has grown significantly over the last two months and this year they will provide 2500 bags of products for people in the area; and GED assistance.

"(It's) really helping our clients get on that journey from dependence to independence – and it's all possible because of people like you – the volunteers, the staff the community at large," Murphy said.

This past Christmas season, volunteers and donors provided gifts for 102 children of Neighbor By Neighbor's clients.

For more information, visit www.neighborbyneighbor.org.

Guests enjoy festive treats

A bird's eye view of Snow Ball

Gary Allen and Heidi Smith are decked out in sparkly attire

Bob Murphy stands by a sleigh full of gifts for Neighbor by Neighbor

Bob Murphy (aka Santa), welcomes guests to Snow Ball

From the Bleachers

COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

Christmas came early for Bears fans last weekend.

When the weekend started, most Bears fans believed that it would be two more weeks before it would be determined if the Bears would be participating in the playoffs this season.

Even though the Bears had compiled a 10-4 record. and were in first place in their division, their three remaining games were against Green Bay, San Francisco, and Detroit, a virtual murderers row of really good football teams. Their first game against these three teams was with the Packers, and what a barn burner it was.

The game, because of its importance and because these two teams have the longest running rivalry in the NFL,was moved to prime time.

So, Saturday night at 7:30 everyone who stayed home got their snacks together and sat down to watch the "game of the year" for Bears fans. Last year at this time fans, were watching holiday movies and making every effort to forget how bad the Bears really were.

What a difference a year makes.

Other fans took off to their favorite watering hole to watch the game with other fans, and those lucky enough to have tickets were warming up their vocal chords.

The game started slowly. The Packers held the Bears scoreless in the first half, but were only able to muster two field goals for a 6-0 lead. Unfortunately, Packer quarterback Jordan Love suffered a concussion and was ruled out for the rest of the game. The third quarter saw Green Bay's second string quarterback play like a starter and the Packers extended their lead to 13-3. The fourth quarter was a doozy.

The Bears kicked a field goal to pull within seven but the Packers matched and were up by 10 again.

With two minutes remaining the Bears kicked another field goal to get within seven again, but it seemed hopeless because there were only two minutes remaining. The desperate Bears tried an onside kick and lo and behold they recovered it. Then, with 24 seconds remaining, the Bears threw a six yard touchdown pass to undrafted rookie Jahdae Walker on fourth down to tie the score.

Most of Chicago was going nuts as the game headed into overtime and the Bears got the ball back after throttling the Packers offense. Four plays later, bedlam broke out when Caleb Williams threw a 46 yard strike to DJ Moore who made a great, game winning catch to win the game.

Bear's fans aren't used to this kind of success, so many cautioned that we still hadn't secured a place in the playoffs, but unbelievably the Lions lost to the Steelers Sunday and the Bears are in!

The Bears could lose in the first game of the playoffs, get a bye, or win the Super Bowl. Whatever happens from here on in, this has been the most exciting season in many years.

Thank you Coach Ben Johnson. We're looking forward to a very long thrilling relationship.

John Steinbeck said, "What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness"

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Eventually, I think Chicago will be the most beautiful great city left in the world.
— Frank Lloyd Wright

Students grace the stage for Christmas variety show

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

As was tradition, students graced the stage during New Buffalo High School's annual display of talent in the New Buffalo Performing Arts Center the day before winter break began Friday, Dec. 19.

Put on by the high school's chapter of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), the talent show featured a wide variety of acts, from students in Matt Bayley's Spanish 3, fourth year and AP Spanish classes returning to sing their medley of Spanish Christmas carols to the school's Vocal Ensemble leading everyone in a Christmas carol singalong to a rendition of the Goo Goo Dolls' "Iris" by the Aaron Illescas-Villa.

Performers and audience members alike were decked out in ugly Christmas sweaters, which ranged from being glittery to multi-colored.

The Vocal Ensemble lead a Christmas sing along

The Spanish 4 and AP class performs Spanish Christmas songs

Matt Bayley (left) strums his guitar while Spanish 3 class sings Spanish carols

Students face off in a Christmas movie trivia game

Aaron Illesca-Villa dances to Iris from the Goo Goo Dolls

Teo Uras performs Payphone by Adam Levine

Students wave their phones in the air to the music

Bri Wingard and Bianca Illescas-Villa sing Never Ending Story

INTEGRITY • EXPERIENCE • SUCCESS

L & B

LAROSE & BOSCO, LTD.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CHICAGO, IL • NEW BUFFALO, MI
MARK A. LAROSE
mlarose@laroseboscolaw.com

Real Estate, Business Law, Commercial Transactions, Injury Law

New Buffalo: (269) 469-8440
Chicago: (312) 642-4414

the one and only
the ACORN
THREE OAKS MICHIGAN
acornlive.org

WHEN YOU LOOK GOOD, YOU FEEL GOOD
the Love Spell boutique
9 W MECHANIC ST
NEW BUFFALO, MI

ROTTEN TOOTH MARKET

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27
11 AM - 4 PM (CST)

ALBANESE GUMMIES • DOEBELI TOFFEE LLC • GROWNUP KIDS STUFF
NOAKS POPCORN • SOUTH BEND CHOCOLATE FACTORY
VALPO VELVET • AND MORE!

THE AMERICAN FACTORY ▪ VALPARAISO, IN | ALL AGES ▪ FREE ADMISSION

SCAN FOR DETAILS
JOURNEYMAN.COM/EVENTS

JOURNEYMAN
THREE OAKS, MI | VALPARAISO, IN

30 N Whittaker St
Bar by night

the FALSE FRONT
NEW BUFFALO • MI

Open Thursday-Monday
thefalsefrontbar.com

Trust It To Be Wonderful
Timothy's
RESTAURANT
16409 Red Arrow Highway | Union Pier

TREECORE
COMPLETE TREE & CRANE SERVICE
269-469-6226
Fully Insured JOE CARR

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION – VILLAGE OF MICHIANA, MICHIGAN TO:THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE VILLAGE OF MICHIANA, MICHIGAN

PLEAE TAKE NOTICE that the Michiana Village Council has adopted the following ordinances, with summaries provided below:

2025-01 Amendment to 2023-05 regulating removal and care of trees, prohibiting the removal of trees and public property, encouraging replanting of trees within the Village limits, requiring trees on private land to be trimmed to protect the safety of the Public on Village streets.Requiring tree removal contractors to register with the Village and provide for removal of trees on private property under certain conditions, adopted 5/9/2025.

2024-01 Amendment to 2023-05 Tree Ordinance to updated dates for tree trimming to prevent Oak Wilt Trees identified as oak will not be pruned between April 15th and September15th.In the event where a tree is damaged or needs pruning, tools must be sanitized and a Latex based paint must be applied to the wound immediately after pruning, adopted 11/8/2024.

2023-01 – Cross Connections regulating cross connections with the public water supply system of the Village of Michiana, i.e., a connection or arrangement of piping or appurtenances through which water of questionable quality, wastes or other contaminants can enter the public water supply system, adopted 6/9/2023.

2023-02 Amend Ordinance 2019-04 The Village's Short-Term Rental Inspection Fees Structure for Inspections. Section 1.Repeal and Replacement of Section 6, subsection 4. Is hereby repealed in its entirely and amended to read as follows:Annual Applications for registration inspection.The fee for annual registration inspection is $300.00 per bedroom, adopted 11/9/2023.

2023-03 Ordinance to define and adopt flood hazard area permit requirements, provide for the review of applications in flood hazard areas, requirements for flood elevation data, and to recognize areas of special flood hazard identified by the federal emergency management agency (FEMA) flood insurance rate maps (FIRM) panels contained on index panel 26021CINDOB, effective April 25, 2024, and the entitled flood insurance study for Berrien County, all jurisdictions, effective April 25,2024. Adopted on 12/8/2023.

2023-04 Amend Ordinance to address updated FloodPlan Management Map, effective April 25,2024. Section 1. Section 3 of Ordinance 2006-02 be deleted in its entirely, with the following adopted in its place and stead, adopted 12/8/2023.

2023-05 Ordinance regulating removal and care of trees, prohibiting the removal of trees and public property, encouraging replanting of trees within the Village limits, requiring trees on private land to be trimmed to protect the safety of the Public on Village streets.Requiring tree removal contractors to register with the Village and provide for removal of trees on private property under certain conditions, adopted 12/8/2023.

2019-01 Ordinance to completely prohibit every type of marihuana establishment in the Village of Michiana, adopted 2/8/20219.

2019-02 Amend 2017-02 Ordinance to Regulate Boats, Kayaks and Paddle Boards on Village of Michiana Public Beaches and Village Beach Storage Racks for Kayaks and Paddle Boards.Section 2: The Village Beach Commissioner and Village Department of Public Works Superintendent should determine which beaches are of sufficient size for public use. No other items will be stored on the rack, chairs, coolers, floaters, etc.Watercraft sticker will need to purchased in order to be placed on the racks.Section 3: Watercrafts without stickers shall be confiscated and citation will be issued by the police, adopted 3/12/2019.

2019-03 Amend 2017-03 Ordinance to provide for the regulation of the ignition, discharge and use of consumer fireworks in the Village of Michiana. Dates and times are now the only dates and times that the Village can not restrict.Any other days outside of these, fireworks will be illegal no matter the time, (Dates and Times Listed in Ord) adopted 6/14/2019.

2019-04 Ordinance to Provide for the Registration and Regulation of Short-Term Rental Properties for the Benefit of the Health, Safety and Welfare of the General Public, adopted 11/9/2019.

2018-01 To regulate park rules and recreation areas, and to promote the public health, safety and general welfare of the residents and visitors of the Village of Michiana, adopted 7/13/2018.

2018-02 – Amendment to sections 360-70 and 360-40 regarding fence requirements in the Village of Michiana, adopted 6/8/2025.

2017-01 – Amendment to section 360 to include fence height, single family dwellings with two kitchens and timeline for completing permitted work, adopted1/13/2017.

2017-02 – Ordinance to appropriate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public to regulate and make rules regarding the storge of private property on public lands, including the storage of boats, kayaks, paddle boards, and all related water floatation equipment and devices which may be stored on public property belonging to the Village of Michiana, adopted 2/10/2017.

2017-03 Ordinance for the regulation of ignition, discharge and use of consumer fireworks in the Village of Michiana as allowed under the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, MCL 28.451et seq., as amended, adopted 7/14/2025.

2017-04 – Ordinance to regulate the storage of beach chairs, water floatation equipment, rafts, tents, storage containers and any other personal beach relate accessory on Village of Michiana Public beaches or lands and/or attached to the Village of Michiana beach storage racks or beach stops overnight, adopted 9/8/2017.

Complete copies of each ordinance can be found on the Village website,at michianavillage.orgunder "Codified Ordinances", or by contacting the Village Clerk at aheywood@ micianavillage.org or at 269-469-4600 during regular business hours.

ANNE HEYWOOD, VILLAGE CLERK

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION – VILLAGE OF MICHIANA, MICHIGAN TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE VILLAGE OF MICHIANA, MICHIGAN

PLEAE TAKE NOTICE that the Michiana Village Council has adopted the following ordinance, with summaries provided below:

2025-02 – Amending Ordinance to restate and revise Ordinance No. 2019-04 to provide for the regulation of rental properties and to limit the number of Short-Term Rental properties within the Village of Michiana for the benefit of the health, safety and welfare of the general public.

260-1. Purpose.
The Village Council finds that the short-term renal of dwellings within the Village of Michiana is a matter closely connected with the public health, safety and welfare of the community.The Village Council has enacted this regulatory article to strike an appropriate balance between the interests of community residents, visitors to the community, and real property owners wishing to engage in short-term rental of dwellings.While visitors to the community who rent dwellings on a short-term basis bring many benefits to the community. They can simultaneously create concerns surrounding issues of traffic, parking, congestion, litter, noise and other similar issues.Meanwhile, issues relate to fire safety and life safety codes must be considered to maximize the safety and well-beingof all in the community.This ordinance is intended to strike the appropriate balance between competing interests, adopted 12/12/2025.

Complete copy of the ordinance can be found on the Villagewebsite michianavillage.orgor by contacting the Village Clerk at aheywood@ micianavillage.org or at 269-469-4600 during regular business hours.

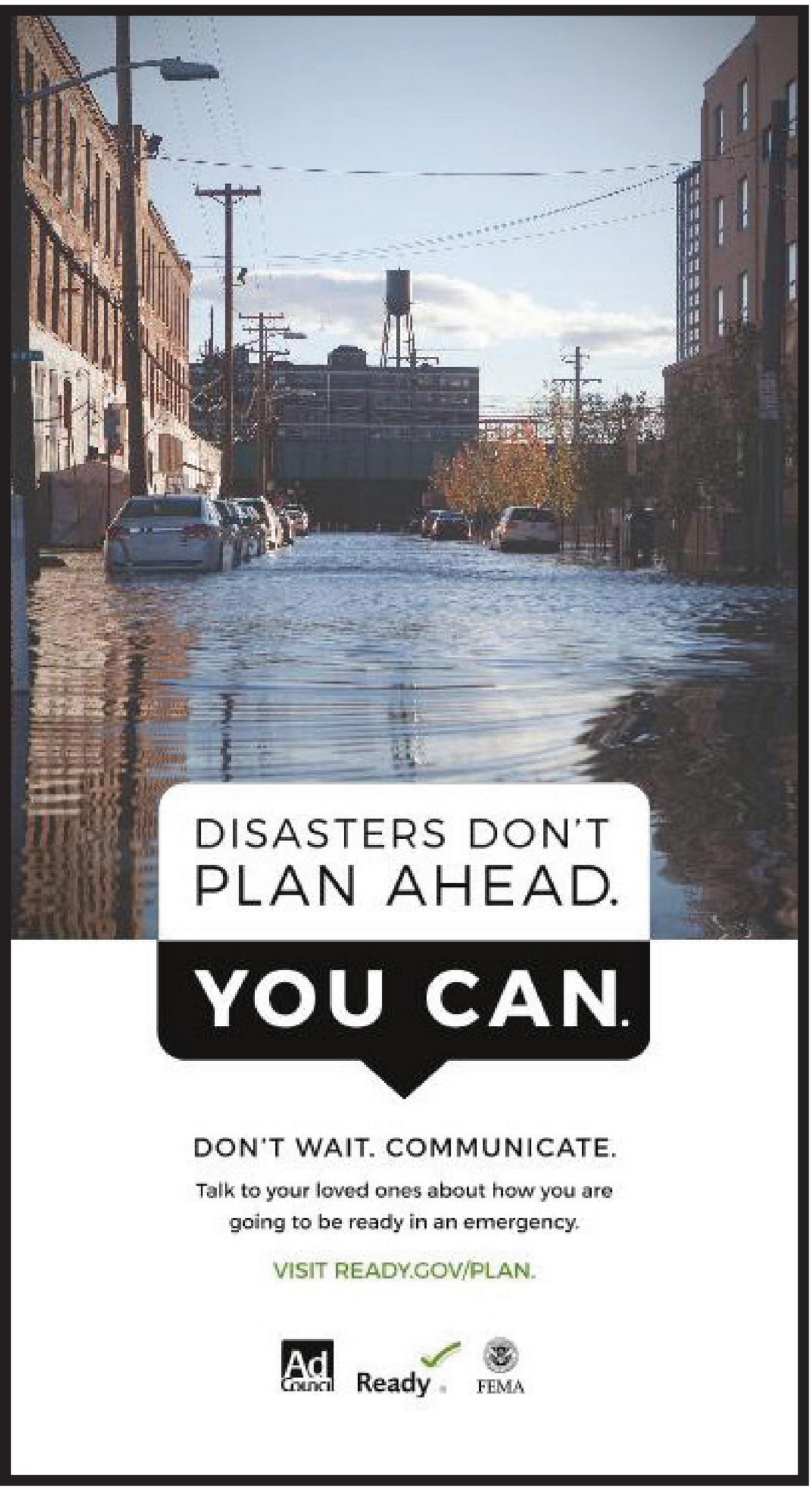
ANNE HEYWOOD
VILLAGE CLERK

1 in 7 children faces hunger.

There's more than enough food in America for every child who struggles with hunger. Help get kids the food they need by supporting Feeding America, the nationwide network of food banks. Together, we can solve hunger™.
Join us at **FeedingAmerica.org**

ad COUNCIL

FEEDING AMERICA



A Writer's Life...

DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

To Climb a Mountain

As I walked into my condo I knew I was faced with a daunting task: trying to recall, rewrite, re-capture a 32-page script overnight. I fired up my computer, slipped in my WordStar scriptwriting program and put a new floppy disc into the second slot.

It would be one of the most intense writing sessions I'd ever go through. Matt and Scott Tracker, Bruce "Magic" Sato, Hondo "Striker" MacLean and others had their work cut out for them...just like I did. Miles "Wolf" Mayhem, Sly "Wrecker" Rax, Cliff "Blaster" Dagger, Vanessa Warfield (be still, my beating heart!) and the rest of the V.E.N.O.M. gang were waiting, Miles Mayhem daring me, "Go ahead, kid. Type away!"

Thunderhawk, Rhino, Firecracker roared to life in my mind. And in counter-cacophony, I could hear Switchblade, Piranha, Jackhammer and Manta Whip race their powerful engines in anticipation of my efforts.

Then I let go, forcing myself not to think. My fingers flew across the keyboard, page after page, scene after scene, hour after hour. Every time I started to grow weary, I thought about Lori's seeming callousness when I told her about my script being wiped from my floppy disc and I pounded harder and harder on the keyboard keys. More hours passed and still more hours passed. As it began to get light outside, I finally typed 'The End'. I looked at the page number on my screen. It said "32" and I made a pot of coffee because I still had two hours before I could deliver my floppy with the re-typed script to DIC and there was no way I was going to go to sleep.

By the time I pulled into DIC's parking lot, I had laid out just how this was going to go down. I'd skipped my morning shower so my long hair was flat and oily. I had a properly disheveled look, wearing the same clothes I had on last night. I kept my sunglasses on as I walked into the reception area. The receptionist cocked her head, not sure what she was seeing and asked, "Jack...?"

I nodded, my voice raspy as I said, "Yeah... I'm here to deliver a script to Lori."

The reception buzzed me in. As I made my way along the corridor toward Lori's office, I went into my act. First I shifted my sunglasses so they were a little askew. Like a blindman, I reached my right hand out and started feeling my way along the wall. As I staggered into her doorway, Lori looked up from her desk with, "I assume you re-wrote the script?"

I held up the floppy disc. "You assume right."

Lori said, "I expected nothing less."

I told her, "Clever how you chose to motivate me by getting me ticked off."

She stifled a smile and said, "You hang around writers long enough you start to figure them out."

I placed the floppy on her desk. "Signed, sealed, delivered."

She picked up the floppy and said, "There aren't many writers who could have done this, Jack." I faked a grimace of shock at the compliment, quickly clutching my chest, feigning a heart attack. She grinned. "Go home and get some sleep."

"You don't have to twist my arm."

I left for home, tired but damned proud.

HOROSCOPE

DECEMBER 25-31, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

During this time of the long nights retreat into your own space and pamper yourself. Do the things you need to feel rested and cared for, that way you'll be at your best when the new year begins. Forget about big parties and heavy drinking, this holiday season is about taking some down time and snuggling in.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

This holiday week get together with friends and share the good times. This is not the time to be alone or in seclusion. Get out. Accept all invitations because you never know who you will meet and connect with or how a new connection might open some unusual career opportunities in the future.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

The vibe this season is all business. It's time to put in more effort organizing and providing the seasonal festivities. Be generous and joyful as you celebrate. Be sure to reach out to everyone far and wide with the invitations. It's the ones you think have it all that may be spending the holidays alone.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

Winter holidays are generally meant for being home and with family but this year you will be the one out traveling and visiting new places. As much as you like to be home, this year you will have the urge to travel and explore. Don't be afraid to try something new and break away from tradition.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

During this holiday season gather with the ones that matter the most and don't worry about hosting large gatherings. Keep things small and simple this year. Do appetizers and finger food in lieu of a large meal. With a smaller group conversation will be more intimate and the cleanup will be a breeze.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

This holiday season is all about connecting with partners and creating some one on one time. There may be a lot of family gatherings and a lot of chores to finish up but be sure to make the effort to create some quality time to let them know how much they mean to you. No gifts needed; just your undivided attention.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

As you celebrate the winter season this year, don't lose sight of health goals and getting a good night's sleep. Stay focused on your personal goals and responsibilities. It's important to get together with people but you don't have to overindulge to have a good time; that goes with spending too much on gifts, as well.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

Let a little romance in this Christmas. Don't shy away from connecting with someone that has been on the sidelines or spending a little extra time getting to know someone new. This year's holiday is ripe with opportunity to talk to interesting people that pique your intellect and get your heart fluttering.

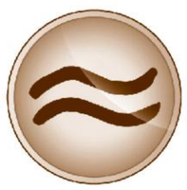
SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

During this time gathering for the holidays be sure to honor the softer side of togetherness. Take time to reconnect with family members that you may have been estranged from or haven't seen in a while. Reach out to those that live far away with a phone call. A few moments is all you need to let them know you care.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

This holiday season is all about reconnecting with siblings and putting in the effort to say hello to the neighbors. Get more involved in your community by putting up holiday lights for all to enjoy. Donate food to local food pantries or gift warm coats and supplies to homeless shelters. Actively give to those in need.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



The vibe this season is vintage for the water bearer. Look for ways to celebrate that hearken to an earlier time. Give gifts that are found in antique and resale shops or better yet, make something. Try baking cookies or making candles. Even the old fashioned phone call could be the best gift this season.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

This Christmas do the usual family stuff but be sure to take some time for yourself and your personal needs. Get a haircut. Go to the gym or get a massage. Romanticize the time you take for yourself and go the extra mile when you do. Make the most of this winter season by putting your mental health first.

Never discourage anyone...who continually makes progress, no matter how slow. — *Plato*

THE BENDT SHOVEL
Perennial Garden Maintenance
Sandra Bendt
(219) 874-2269

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

9		3		1				8
							6	
								5
1	5				9	6	8	3
		2					1	9
	4		9		5			
8			1	2			5	
	6	5		8	3			2

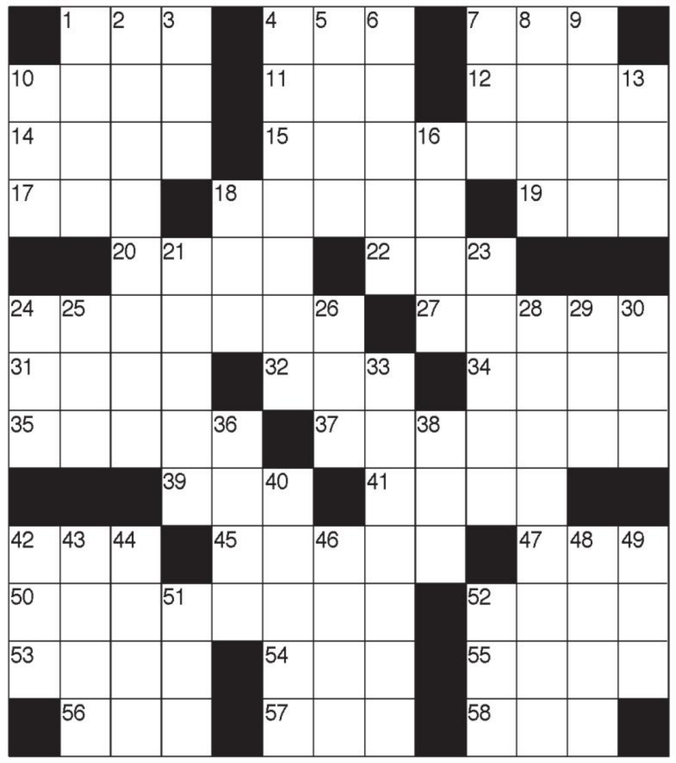
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Palestine Liberation Organ. (abbr.)
4 Dance company (abbr.)
7 Chairman (abbr.)
10 Variegated in color
11 Remote
12 Excavate
14 Pilaster
15 Bot (2 words)
17 Exclamation
18 Notes in Guido's scale
19 Shak. contraction
20 Russ. range
22 Equine
24 Mar
27 Hebrew letter
31 Duds
32 Touch lightly
34 Guide
35 Chasm
37 Sugarcane by-product
39 Cereal grain or grass
41 Pharaoh
42 Arrival (abbr.)
45 Ridge
47 Revolutions per minute (abbr.)
50 Regatta (2 words)
52 Nut
53 Shak. villain
54 Videocassette recorder (abbr.)
55 Hung. violinist
56 Dive
57 Poetic contraction
58 Son of Abijah

DOWN

1 Metallic sound
2 Coma
3 Harem room
4 Pain
5 Geological epoch
6 Nutlike drupe
7 Certified Public Accountant (abbr.)
8 Employ
9 Turn
10 Birthplace of Henry IV
13 Bobbsey twins
16 Irish fortified place
18 Eastern standard time (abbr.)
21 Rope
23 Muslim prayer
24 As written in music
25 Male swan
26 Habakkuk (abbr.)
28 Fain
29 Laughter sounds
30 Dutch commune
33 Horse's foot part
36 Moselle tributary
38 Right turn
40 Horse-shoeing stall
42 Mother of Hezekia
43 Via
44 Fad
46 Behold! (Lat.)
48 Supplication
49 Disfigure
51 Heavy weight
52 "The Jungle Book" python



Public Notice:
Your right to know!

for

PUBLIC NOTICES are an effective way for agencies of government to make official announcements.

State law requires these notices be printed in newspapers.

Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.

* EPIC-MRA 2011

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

This newspaper supports your right to know.

PUBLIC NOTICES

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH MICHIGAN

The Village of Grand Beach is looking to fill a full-time position in our Water/ Streets Department.

Applicants must have a valid driver's license and be available to work Monday-Friday, 7am-3pm EST. Full health/retirement benefits. Competitive pay based on experience.

Application and job information is posted on our website, www.grandbeach.org.

Please submit resumes to Village of Grand Beach 48200 Perkins Blvd Grand Beach, MI 49117, or email to clerk@grandbeach.org

KIMBERLY WOLNIK
CLERK-TREASURER

VILLAGE OF GRAND BEACH
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2025-117

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2022-104, AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGISTRATION AND REGULATION OF RENTAL PROPERTIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC, TO INCLUDE A PROVISION PROHIBITING OUTDOOR SOUND AMPLIFICATION DEVICES.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with Michigan law, the Grand Bach Village Council adopted Ordinance 2025-117 on December 17, 2025, at a regular meeting of the Village Council.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This Ordinance shall become effective December 21, 2025.

KIMBERLY WOLNIK
VILLAGE CLERK

NEW TROY COAT DRIVE WRAPPING UP

Free coats, hats, scarves, and gloves in all sizes are available at the New Troy Community Center through Jan. 5.

The community was exceptionally generous with donations this year, so there is no reason for anyone to be cold. Coat donations are no longer being accepted for this season.

The outdoor rack holding gently used coats can be accessed any day, any time. Accessories and new children's coats are kept indoors, so can be accessed only when the Community Center is open from 4-6 p.m. Monday through Thursday or from 10 a.m. to noon Friday and Saturday at the Friends of New Troy Community Center, 13372 California Rd., New Troy, Michigan.

For more information, please contact Friends of New Troy Community Center at 269-426-3909. — STAFF REPORTS

DEATH NOTICES

THREE OAKS – Scott K. MacGregor, 69, of Sawyer passed away on Sunday, December 14, 2025. Arrangements are pending at Wagner Family Funerals Pobocik Chapel, Three Oaks.

There's nothing we can't do
No job too small - No job too hard
24/7 - FREE ESTIMATES

WOLNIK'S DETAILED TREE SERVICE

RONNY WOLNIK II - Owner
(269)-405-0362

To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

WHAT IS YOUR GUT MICROBIOME

Microbiome is a buzzword today in the natural health world. Although it has always been important to keep in balance, todays Standard American Diet has caused aserious imbalance.

The human body actually has more microbes living in us than actual human cells. Our gut microbiome is made up of trillions of microorganisms living in our intestines. These are bacteria, fungi and viruses. It is an ecosystem that lives within us. I always teach about the good guys in our gut and the bad guys. The ones that you feed is going to be responsible for your overall health.

These gut organisms digest our food and turn it into fuel for our bodies. They convert vitamins and minerals in our body and even influences our moods and brain. You have heard of the Gut/Brain axis? They communicate with your brain influencing sleep, mood, energy and even personality. These microorganisms are responsible for your overall immunity. Some people are sick all the time, others are healthy through all the viruses rampant around them. This is because some people have a healthier microbiome than others.

When you don't have enough of these good bacteria, the bad are able to thrive. Signs and symptoms of an unhealthy Gut Microbiome include sugar cravings, carbohydrate cravings, digestive issues such as acid reflux, bloating, heartburn, gas, constipation OR diarrhea, insomnia, restless leg, allergies, weight gain/loss, mood disorders, autoimmune issues, thyroid issues, and even cancers.

What destroys a healthy microbiome? Sugar, antibiotics, many other Rx, processed foods, dead foods, soda, dairy, alcohol, etc. Even stress and negative thoughts and anger on a regular basis can destroy a healthy gut microbiome. Use of anti-biotics can cause C-diff, which is when your body has reached it's lowest of good microbiome. A very serious and dangerous situation to find yourself in. Antibiotics have been so overused and abused in our medical system that most people don't even have a benefit from them. This causes antibiotic resistance and more gut microbiome is destroyed in every round. The patient will get sicker and the cycle of prescribed antibiotics continue. I have always said that antibiotics should only be used in a life-threateningsituation. The body knows how to heal when we give it what it needs. There are too many natural antibiotics. In fact, just stop feeding at all when sick. Use broth, fresh herbs and juices and stay hydrated. The body knows how to heal.

The word ANTI means 'against' and biotic means 'life.' Antibiotics are non-selective and kill all of the bacteria. The good guys along with the bad. Pro means 'for.' Probiotics mean for life.

Most everyone is familiar with PRObiotics. But more important are PREbiotics. These are foods that actually feed your microbiome to keep them healthy and alive. Raw sauerkraut, kimchi, high fiber vegetables and fruits, dates, lentils, oats, flax and chia seeds, and more.

A great book you can get at the library is called 'The Good Gut' by Justin and Erica Sonnenburg. Health microbiome is your key to wellness.

Disclaimer: Everything here is for nutritional education and is not meant to diagnose, treat prevent or cure. See your doctor when you have questions.

PET OF THE WEEK

BEAN

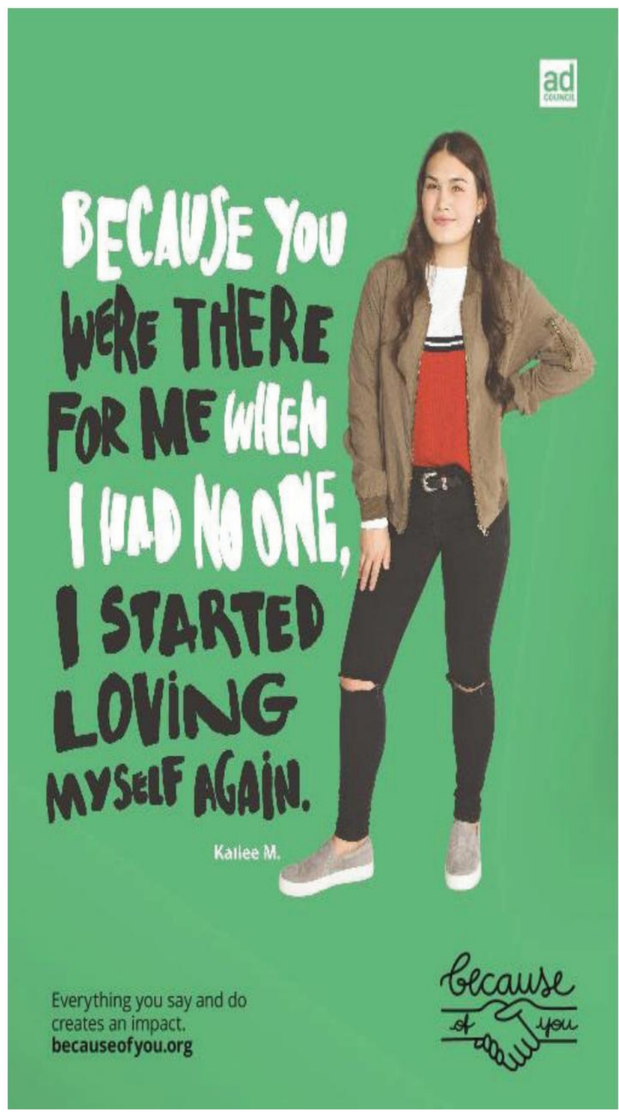
Need a little more happiness? Maybe a few more smiles? How 'bout a whole lotta extra laughter? If any of those are true, then you need to adopt eight-month-old Bean. She is an exuberant ray of sunshine who is an on-the-go kind of gal. She loves enrichment activities, and she flies high after toys-on-strings and has a blast trying to catch them. Bean would love to be the only kitty in her new home and asks that kiddos are about 10ish and older. Even though she is a high-energy sweetheart, a home without a lot of commotion would suit her best! Make Bean part of your home today.

AVAILABLE AT THE MICHIANA HUMANE SOCIETY

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
New Buffalo Times
— SINCE 1942 —

9	2	3	5	1	6	7	4	8
5	8	7	3	4	2	9	6	1
4	1	6	7	9	8	3	2	5
1	5	4	2	7	9	6	8	3
3	9	8	6	5	1	2	7	4
6	7	2	8	3	4	5	1	9
2	4	1	9	6	5	8	3	7
8	3	9	1	2	7	4	5	6
7	6	5	4	8	3	1	9	2

■	P	L	O	■	A	B	T	■	C	H	M	■		
P	I	E	D	■	F	A	R	■	P	I	O	N		
A	N	T	A	■	F	L	Y	L	A	R	V	A		
U	G	H	■	E	L	A	M	I	■	E	E	N		
■	■	A	L	S	I	■	A	S	S	■	■	■		
S	C	R	A	T	C	H	■	S	A	D	H	E		
T	O	G	S	■	T	A	P	■	L	E	A	D		
A	B	Y	S	S	■	B	A	G	A	S	S	E		
■	■	■	O	A	T	■	S	E	T	I	■	■		
A	R	R	■	A	R	E	T	E	■	R	P	M		
B	O	A	T	R	A	C	E	■	K	O	L	A		
I	A	G	O	■	V	C	R	■	A	U	E	R		
■	D	E	N	■	E	E	N	■	A	S	A	■		


ad COUNCIL
BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE FOR ME WHEN I HAD NO ONE, I STARTED LOVING MYSELF AGAIN.
Kaliee M.
Everything you say and do creates an impact.
becauseofyou.org
because of you

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS
HARBOR COUNTRY INSURANCE AGENCY
Gregory A. Bubb, CIC
269-469-4438
212 S Whittaker St.
New Buffalo, MI
www.HARBORCOUNTRYINSURANCE.com

Web Design
Genesis
Web Design
St Joseph, MI
269.429.7014
Design - Maintenance - Hosting

PROFESSIONALS IN ALL OF YOUR TREE CARE NEEDS
MAPLE CITY TREE SPECIALISTS
REMOVAL
TRIMMING
PRESERVATION
STORM DAMAGE
FIREWOOD
LOT CLEARING
SNOW PLOWING
FREE ESTIMATES
Commercial • Residential
37 Years Experience • Insured
DENNIS JEFFERS, SR.
219-393-3155
maplecitytree@comcast.net

100 ACRE FARM
LAWN CARE & SNOW REMOVAL, LLC
MOWING
EDGING
LANDSCAPING
MULCHING
POWER WASHING
SEASONAL
CLEAN-UPS
10% DISCOUNT FIRST SERVICE FOR MILITARY & SENIORS
269-586-4303

CLEAN AIR
Cleaning Services
Residential
Commerical
Rentals
Move-Ins • Move-Outs
Deep Cleans
10% Discount First Service for Military & Seniors
269-586-4303

LARGEST SELECTION OF SPAS in the Area!

Artesian Spas · Nordic Hot Tubs · CalderaSpas Come to Life
SENSATIONAL Spas
Monday-Friday 9-5
Saturday 9-2
5595 Red Arrow Hwy.
Stevensville
269-429-7171
35 YEARS ANNIVERSARY
WWW.SENSATIONALHOTTUBS.COM

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE New Buffalo Times — SINCE 1942 —

Semi-truck driver dies after multiple-vehicle crash on I-94

The driver of a semi-truck is deceased after a motor vehicle crash involving two semis on I-94 in Berrien County Monday, Dec. 22.

According to a Benton Township Police Department press release made by D/Lt. Tyler Tiefenbach, at 5:43 a.m. Monday, Berrien County Central Dispatch "put out a priority call for a report of a personal injury crash" that involved two semis at the 29-mile marker of eastbound I-94.

Upon arrival, officers and firefighters found that both semis were on fire.

Despite rescue efforts, one of the semi drivers, who has yet to be positively identified, did pass and was taken to WMED for an autopsy. The other driver, who was uninjured, is "being cooperative with the investigation."

According to preliminary investigation, one semi was parked on the shoulder of the road and the second semi collided with the first one. The Berrien County Accident Reconstruction Team is continuing to investigate.

The release stated that, contrary to social media reports, "neither truck contained hazardous materials."

"The Berrien County Hazmat team was requested to assist with the amount of diesel and oil the trucks had put onto the road," the release said.

Anyone who witnessed the crash is asked to contact Sgt. Crystal Mendoza at the Benton Township Police Department at (269)926-8221 or Crime Stoppers at (574)228-STOP.

The following departments and companies assisted at the scene: Berrien County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police, Watervliet Police Department, Saint Joseph Township Fire Department Station 1 & 2, Sodus Fire Department, Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety, Royalton Twp. Fire Department, Berrien County Central Dispatch, Medic 1 Ambulance, Michigan Department of Transportation, Hasse's Towing and B&Z Excavating. — **STAFF REPORTS**

SONNY D'S BAR & GRILL
NEW BUFFALO

Sonny D's

BRUNCH WITH SANTA AND REINDEERS

12.20.25

10am - 2pm

RESERVE YOUR TABLE TODAY!
(269) 586-3605

Rocco's TAVERN

EVERY SUNDAY
FROM NOON
Until We Run Out!

FULL SLAB OF RIBS & FRESH CUT FRIES

827 FRANKLIN STREET | MICHIGAN CITY, IN 46360
219.355.3047